## Message Text

## CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03920 131431Z ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 ICAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 ACDA-12 //090 W

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O P 131409Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8696
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY
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AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CONFIDENTIAL BEIRUT 3920

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG MARR UNSC IS LE

SUBJ: SOUTH LEBANON - STATUS REPORT FROM SYG SPECIAL REP TO LEBANON

- 1. UNSYG SPECIAL REP FOR LEBANON JOHN SAUNDERS CALLED ON DCM JULY 12. DURING CONVERSATION, SAUNDERS MADE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ABOUT MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH LEBANON.
- 2. SITUATION ON THE GROUND HAD STABILIZED DURING PAST TWO WEEKS. CHRISTIAN MILITIAS CONTROLLED A STRIP ALONG THE LEBANESE-ISRAELI BORDER VARYING IN WIDTH. UNIFIL HAD MADE NO REPEAT NO ATTEMPT TO DEPLOY WITHIN THIS AREA. PALESTINIAN PRESENCE IN UNIFIL AREA HAD ALSO STABILIZED AND PLO WAS NOT REPEAT NOT MAKING ANY SERIOUS ATTEMPTS AT INFILTRATION, BUT SAUNDERS WAS NOT SURE HOW LONG THIS RESTRAINT WOULD CONTINUE.

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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 03920 131431Z

3. ALTHOUGH SITUATION WAS QUIET AT THE MOMENT, UNIFIL WAS BOTHERED BY COMPLETE ABSENCE OF ANY GOL AUTHORITY. THERE WAS NO LAF LIAISON OFFICER AT NAQURA AND NO REPEAT NO GOL AUTHORITY TO WHICH UNIFIL COULD TURN FOR ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS THAT SHOULD BE ANSWERED BY HOST GOVERNMENT. SAUNDERS THOUGHT PRESENT SITUATION COULD

CONTINUE FOR QUITE A WHILE PROVIDING NONE OF THE ACTORS ON THE SCENE -- CHRISTIAN MILITIAS, PALESTINIANS OR THE ISRAELIS -- MADE A SERIOUS ATTEMPT TO UPSET THE PRESENT BALANCE. HE SAID THAT INTRODUCTION OF LAF FORCES WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY DESTABILIZE THE SITUATION BUT SUCH MOVE MUST TAKE PLACE EVENTUALLY. UN, HE SAID, COULD NOT ASSUME THE FUNCTIONS OF A SOVEREIGN STATE. PARKER

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## Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** 

Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, DCM, POLITICAL SITUATION, MILITARY EXERCISES

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 13 jul 1978 Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014 Disposition Event:

Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BEIRUT03920
Document Source: CORE

**Document Unique ID: 00** Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A

**Expiration:** Film Number: D780287-0313 Format: TEL

From: BEIRUT

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780766/aaaacdnm.tel

Line Count: 70 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: dac37e76-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION NEA

Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 30 jun 2005 **Review Event:** Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2027025 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: SOUTH LEBANON - STATUS REPORT FROM SYG SPECIAL REP TO LEBANON

TAGS: PORG, MARR, IS, LE, UNSC, (SAUNDERS, JOHN)

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/dac37e76-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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